

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01370 172150Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, CA
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING
FORCE IN LEBANON

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER DIEFEN-
BAKER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER JAMIESON INDICATED,
THROUGH THE FOLLOWING REMARKS, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S
WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY PARTICIPATING IN A
PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN LEBANON:

"ALONG WITH MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, WE HAVE ALREADY
DEPLORED THE TERRORIST ACTION WHICH OCCURRED IN ISRAEL
AND THE RETALIATORY ACTION WHICH FOLLOWED. UNFORTUNATELY
THIS DIMINISHES THE PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN
THE MIDDLE EAST. AS FOR DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THEN, HON.
MEMBERS WILL BE AWARE THAT YESTERDAY I EXPRESSED THE VIEW
THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO SEE THE WITHDRAWAL OF
ISRAELI FORCES FROM THE SOUTHERN PART OF LABANON. THIS
CARRIES IMPLICIT IN IT THE VIEW, WHICH I HOLD, THAT THERE
IS A NEED FOR SOME KIND OF STABILIZING OR PEACE-KEEPING
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FORCE SUCH AS THE RIGHT HON. MEMBER SUGGESTED. I MADE
IT KNOWN SOME MONTHS AGO THAT CANADA IS PREPARED TO
CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A FORCE IF THERE IS
PROPOSAL FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT AND IF IT RECEIVES THE
APPROVAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, SOMETHING WHICH, AS THE
RIGHT HON. GENTLEMAN KNOWS, WOULD BE NECESSARY IF THE
FORCE WAS TO BE EFFECTIVE.

"EVENTS OVER THE WEEKEND WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT
A CALL FOR SUCH A COURSE WILL BE MADE IN A FORMAL WAY--
I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES MADE A
SUGGESTION TO THAT EFFECT YESTERDAY.

"WE ARE PREPARED TO LOOK AT PEACE-KEEPING IF A NUMBER OF
CONDITIONS ARE MET TO OUR SATISFACTION, INCLUDING THE
FUNDAMENTAL ONE THAT SUCH A FORCE WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY
OUT ITS MANDATE AND RESTORE A HIGH LEVEL OF STABILITY TO
AN EXTREMELY TROUBLED AND PERILOUS SITUATION.

"SUCH A PEACE FORCE WOULD CLEARLY HAVE TO HAVE THE
AGREEMENT OF, FOR EXAMPLE, ISRAEL. UNLESS ISRAEL WAS
PREPARED IN THIS CASE, BEING ONE OF THE PARTIES--THERE
WOULD BE OTHERS--TO ACCEPT THIS FORCE AND TO BE GOVERNED
BY IT, WE WOULD THEN BE PUTTING CANADIAN FORCES INTO A
VERY DIFFICULT AND RISKY SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE AND--INCIDENTALLY AND NOT THE LEAST OF OUR
CONSIDERATIONS--A SERIOUS RISK TO THEIR LIVES AND TO
THEIR SAFETY. ALL I AM SAYING IS THAT THE QUALIFICATION
IS THAT WE MUST BE SATISFIED THAT THE FORCE CAN CARRY
OUT THE MANDATE IT IS GIVEN.

"IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME ANOTHER MOMENT, MR. SPEAKER, THERE
IS ALSO THE PROBLEM WHICH WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO
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DISCUSS AS TO THE ROLE WHICH SUCH A PEACEKEEPING FORCE
CAN PERFORM. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE ALREADY VERY HEAVILY
COMMITTED WITH REGARD TO A LOGISTIC SUPPORT ROLE ON THE
GOLAN HEIGHTS AND ALSO ON THE SINAI. IF WE WERE ASKED
TO PERFORM THAT ROLE, WE COULD NOT EXPAND OUR CAPABILITY,
SO THEREFORE IT IS AGAIN A MATTER OF DEFINING AND ASKING
JUST WHAT WE CAN DO. HOWEVER, THAT DOES NOT DIMINISH IN
ANY WAY OUR COMMITMENT."
ENDERS

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